

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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P.O. Box 1148
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Date Issued: 7/16/2013
Time: 4:40 p.m.

COMMERCIAL PINK SALMON FISHERY OPENS IN GOLOVIN SUBDISTRICT

On Wednesday, July 17, there will be one 48-hour commercial fishing period directed on pink salmon in Norton Sound Subdistrict 2, the Golovin Subdistrict, from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 17 to 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 19. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and gillnets must have a mesh size no greater than 4 1/2 inches in length.

Golovin Subdistrict salmon fisheries are being managed this season based on escapement data from the Kwiniuk River tower, located in Subdistrict 3, the nearby Elim Subdistrict. The Niukluk River tower project is no longer operational to assess escapements in season in the Golovin Subdistrict. However, the Kwiniuk River tower-based escapement goal threshold of 8,400 pink salmon is projected to be reached and there is buyer interest in pink salmon. Additionally, the former Niukluk River escapement goal threshold of 10,500 pink salmon has been achieved continually since 1998, and there are no concerns meeting subsistence and escapement needs this season.

There were no directed chum salmon openings this season in Subdistrict 2 as a result of a weak chum salmon run. The Subdistricts 2 and 3 management plan does not allow for commercial pink salmon fishing to occur before July 14 in the Golovin Subdistrict in years of low chum salmon abundance. However, the bulk of the chum salmon run is believed to be in river by this time and pink salmon commercial fishing should not have a negative impact on chum salmon escapements in the Fish River drainage. Pink salmon run strength will be indexed using comparative catch statistics from this opening and Kwiniuk River tower counts in order to determine if more commercial fishing opportunity can be provided while not jeopardizing subsistence uses of pink salmon.